



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY TO MAILING THREATENING COMMUNICATIONS TO A FEDERAL JUDGE

Convicted Sex Offender Pleads Guilty to Sending Threatening Letter to Federal Judge

February 27, 2012

[Plattsburgh, New York]—United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian announced today that STEVEN WILLETTE, age 59, of Schuyler Falls, New York, pled guilty on January 24, 2012, to one count of Mailing Threatening Communications, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 876(c) and (2)(b). WILLETTE pled guilty pursuant to a plea agreement in front of United States District Court Judge David N. Hurd in Utica, New York.

WILLETTE was indicted on June 29, 2011, on four counts of Mailing Threatening Communications, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 876(c) and (2)(b). The indictment stemmed from letters the defendant mailed on October 22, 2010, from the Mohawk Correctional Facility, in Rome, New York, where he was a prisoner. On said date, the defendant mailed threatening letters to a United States District Court Judge, a New York Supreme Court Judge, a Clinton County Supreme Court Judge, and a Franklin County Supreme Court Judge, all of whom had been involved in the defendant's previous convictions of 1st Degree Sexual Abuse or Failure to Report a Change in Address as a Sex Offender, or his classification as a Level III Sex Offender in New York State.

WILLETTE is scheduled to be sentenced on August 10, 2012, in Utica, New York. A conviction of Mailing a Threatening Communication to a United States judge carries a maximum

sentence of ten (10) years imprisonment and a fine up to \$250,000. Judge Hurd ordered that the defendant remain in the custody of the United States Marshals pending sentencing.

The investigation was conducted by the United States Postal Inspection Service, the New York State Department of Corrections Office of Inspector General, the New York State Department of Parole, and the New York State Police. The case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York. Any questions may be directed to Assistant United States Attorney Julie S. Pfluger in Plattsburgh, New York at 518-314-7800.